

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 08256 071347Z  
ACTION SS-25

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-----128239 071350Z /47  
O 071322Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2370

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8256

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, MARR, MASS, GR, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON SCHAUFLE CASE AND OTHER  
MATTERS

1. AT BRAZILIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION THIS MORNING I HAD  
15 MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS WHO RETURNED  
LATE LAST WEEK FROM POLAND. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH  
HIM HIS VIEWS ON MATTERS WHICH ARE SURE TO ARISE DURING HIS  
MEETING LATE THIS MONTH IN NEW YORK WITH THE SECRETARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT WHAT GOG POSITION WAS  
LIKELY TO BE IN TALKS WITH SECRETARY ABOUT AMBASSADOR-DE-  
SIGNATE SCHAUFLE'S NOMINATION, BITSIOS SAID HE REGRETTED  
NECESSITY TO SAY THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN GOG POSITION.  
AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS HAD TRIED TO EXPLAIN CURRENT GOG  
THINKING ON THIS MATTER TO UNDER SECRETARY HABIB BUT HAD  
MET WITH A STONEWALL. DISAGREEMENT OVER WHETHER OR NOT SCHAUFLE  
SHOULD COME CERTAINLY SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A MATTER OF  
PRESTIGE BY U.S.; QUESTIONS OF PRESTIGE ARISE ONLY BETWEEN  
ANTAGONISTS, NOT CLOSE FRIENDS AS WE ARE. REAL  
QUESTION IS EFFECT SHCAUFLE'S COMING WOULD HAVE LOCALLY  
ON CLIMATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES WHICH HAS NOW REACHED  
AN EXCELLENT STATE AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF COOLNESS. IT WOULD BE  
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IN NEITHER COUNTRY'S INTEREST TO ALLOW REVERSION TO WIDESPREAD  
ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH WOULD BE SURE TO FOLLOW  
SCHAUFLE'S ARRIVAL HERE UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. I REMINDED HIM THAT AMBASSADOR KUBISCH HAD ARRIVED  
UNDER SIMILAR CLOUD OF MEDIA HOSTILITY IN 1974 AND THAT BY  
THE TIME HE LEFT HE HAD GAINED THE FULLEST CONFIDENCE OF

GOG AND ACCEPTANCE BY ALL SHADES OF PUBLIC OPINION. SCHAUFELLE IS TOPNOTCH, BROAD-GAUGED DIPLOMATIC PROFESSIONAL WHO WOULD CERTAINLY ACHIEVE COMPARABLE RESULTS. IF HE IS NOT ACCEPTED HERE, I DOUBTED GREECE WOULD GET ANOTHER NOMINEE WITH ANYTHING LIKE HIS COMPETENCE, EXPERIENCE, OR STANDING IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

4. BITSIOS ADMITTED THAT SCHAUFELLE MIGHT BE ABLE IN TIME TO OVERCOME HIS BAD START, BUT IN THE MEANTIME HIS PRESENCE HERE WOULD CAUSE A REAL SETBACK IN GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND A DIVERSION FROM THE UPWARD TREND THOSE RELATIONS WERE ENJOYING. GOG, HE SAID, IS SIMPLY NOT PREPARED FOR SUCH A SETBACK. BOTH COUNTRIES MUST TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO BUILD ON OUR RENEWED GOOD FOUNDATIONS AND AVOID ANYTHING WHICH COULD CHANGE THE TREND LINE. REGRETFULLY, GOG WAS CONVINCED THE EFFECT OF SCHAUFELLE'S COMING WOULD REVERSE THIS FAVORABLE TREND.

5. ASKED ABOUT CURRENT GOG THINKING REGARDING TIMING OF DCA SIGNATURE, BITSIOS SAID HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER YET BECAUSE HE MUST FIRST TALK ABOUT IT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WHO HAS BEEN SICK SINCE BITSIOS' RETURN FROM POLAND. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL, HOWEVER, HAVE SOMETHING TO PROPOSE ON THIS MATTER IN HIS TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY (SEE ATHENS 8230 ON EMBOFF'S TALK WITH MFA LEGAL ADVISOR MACHERITSAS ON THIS SUBJECT).

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6. BITSIOS ASKED TO BE INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE DATE AND TIME FOR HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS HAD REPORTED THAT THE MEETING WAS LIKELY TO BE SEPTEMBER 26 OR 27, AND BITSIOS HOPES VERY MUCH THAT IT CAN BE ARRANGED FOR THE 26TH. HE HAS A MUCH FULLER SCHEDULE OF OTHER MEETINGS ON THE 27TH BUT WOULD, OF COURSE JUGGLE THEM AROUND IF THAT IS THE DAY THE SECRETARY CAN SEE HIM. I WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING DATE AND TIME OF APPOINTMENT AS SOON AS IT HAS BEEN SET SO I CAN PASS IT ON TO BITSIOS.

MILLS

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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